

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment cancels without prejudice original claims 1-8 and substitute claims 1-5 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/02527, and adds without prejudice new claims 9-14. The Preliminary Amendment conforms the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3), the Substitute Specification (including the Abstract but without the claims) contains no new matter. The amendments reflected in the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) are to conform the Specification and Abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules or to correct informalities. As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3)(iii) and § 1.125(b)(2), a Marked Up Version Of The Substitute Specification comparing the Specification of record and the Substitute Specification also accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. Approval and entry of the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) is respectfully requested.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/02527 includes an International Search Report, dated December 18, 2000. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were uncovered in the underlying PCT Application. A copy of the Search Report accompanies this Preliminary Amendment.

The underlying PCT application also includes an International Preliminary Examination Report (“IPER”) dated November 2, 2001. An English translation of the IPER is included herewith

Applicants assert that subject matter of the present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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